

Serial No. 09/682,771
Art Unit No. 2812

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 were originally pending in the patent application. The Examiner had required restriction, in response to which Applicants opted to prosecute Claims 1-7 and withdrew Claims 8-17 from consideration. Applicants note that the present Office Action states that the original application contained Claims 1-10 and that Claims 8-10 have been withdrawn. Applicants request that the Examiner confirm that Claims 11-17 were withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected all of the pending claims 1-7 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by the Hashizume patent. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are patentable over the cited art.

The present invention teaches and claims a liquid crystal display in a housing wherein light from a light source is directed by a flat-lighting surface member, or light guide plate, to a display panel mounted in the housing. Additional light which is not directed to the display panel is also present in the housing. In order to take advantage of the additional light, the present invention teaches and claims that the housing additionally

JA920000286US1

-8-

Serial No. 09/682,771
Art Unit No. 2812

comprise windows, or other optically transparent areas, disposed opposite to the display panel, through which the additional light may be emitted. The otherwise unused light that passes through the windows in the wall of the housing which is opposite to the display panel can be used to illuminate an input device, such as the keyboard, without requiring added light sources, additional components, or additional power consumption.

The Hashizume patent is directed to a polarized light separation device. As illustrated in Fig. 5, Hashizume shows that "windows are opened...on the light exit surface side of the polarization beam splitter" whereby certain polarizations of light are directed through the windows. Accordingly, some light will pass through the polarizer while some may be passed perpendicularly through the windows. Hashizume does not teach that windows or other optically transparent areas be provided on a surface which is parallel to the surface through which or onto which light is being directed. In fact, Hashizume cannot direct light both through one end of the polarization beam splitter and the other parallel end, because the light beams would

JA920000286US1

-9-

Serial No. 09/682,771
Art Unit No. 2812

interfere with each other and potentially cancel each other out.

Applicants respectfully assert that the Hashizume patent does not anticipate the invention as claimed. As amended, the pending claims expressly recite that the windows or other optically transparent areas are disposed parallel to the surface which is being illuminated, namely the display panel. Hashizume neither teaches nor suggests such an arrangement. It is well established under U. S. Patent Law that, for a reference to anticipate claim language under 35 USC 102, that reference must teach each and every claim feature. Since the Hashizume patent does not teach a display apparatus wherein windows or other optically transparent surfaces are provided in the surface parallel to the display panel to allow otherwise unused light to pass to the outside, it cannot be maintained that the Hashizume patent anticipates the invention as claimed.

Applicants further assert that the claim language would not be obvious in view of Hashizume, since Hashizume would be unworkable for its intended purpose if an attempt was made to direct light out in a direction parallel to the optical axis of the polarization beam splitter. Any such

JA920000286US1

-10-

Serial No. 09/682,771
Art Unit No. 2812

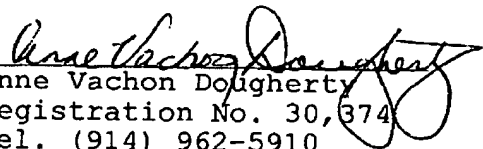
modification of Hashizume would result in beam interference and or cancellation, making Hashizume unworkable for its intended purpose. Clearly, therefore, such modification would not be obvious.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments, reconsideration of the amended claim language in light of the remarks, withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

F. Nakamura, et al

By:


Anne Vachon Dougherty
Registration No. 30,374
Tel. (914) 962-5910

JA920000286US1

-11-